

G20I Fellows and Youth Forum – 8 October 2020

Topic 4

Fellows as Guardians for the Planet

Recommendations

Collaborators:

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1. Background/Challenge

Empowered by scriptural mandates, many faith leaders and indigenous traditions have been active in preserving and guarding the planet throughout time. Much can be gained by considering this along with scientific research on environmental issues.

This working group recognizes and recommends a two-pronged approach: engagement and education to better address the urgency of climate change and to benefit from the knowledge, experience, and inspiration of religious and spiritual traditions of the world.

This working group also recognizes the importance of Faith Leaders and Faith Communities to promote values of environmental conservation from a place of empathy and compassion, and not from a place of high ideals and moral/ethical superiority.

Furthermore, this group emphasizes and reiterates the power of Faith Actors working together with Global Policymakers to positively impact mass behavior, inspire social-cultural changes, and influence across various stakeholders engaged in eco-conscious action.

2. Recommendations

Engagement

1. Promote engaging Faith Actors in Ecological Committees at the national, regional and subregional levels.
2. Initiatives, relevant knowledge, and actions of faith communities related to the environment and climate change can be shared with mainstream media, social media, and all available platforms.
3. Particular attention directed towards younger generations to enable their engagement in developing their ecological awareness and putting it in action.

Education

1. Promote gathering of key spiritual values (common values) and principles, that emphasize the importance of caring for our environment and living in harmony with Mother Earth. These teachings can be integrated with scientific recommendations, then disseminated through educational channels in every faith tradition.
2. Fund research that investigates the connection between theology and ecology, then incorporating the findings as part and parcel of Climate Change and Ecological Intelligence.
3. KAICIID may launch a global program to raise awareness of climate change through their fellow and religious leaders.
4. Development of an Ecoliteracy Toolkit, in a multimedia presentation that can be used as an educational guide to enable anyone to help guard our planet. The content can include:
 - Develop empathy for all forms of life.
 - Embrace sustainability as an individual, family, and social practice.
 - Make the invisible visible.
 - Anticipate unintended consequences.
 - Understand how nature sustains life.
 - Mother nature deserves greater gratitude.
 - Role of every earth citizen.